wherein the olefin copolymer has a glass transition temperature T_g of lower than 60°C.--

REMARKS

Claims 3 and 5-13 are active in the present application. Independent Claim 10 has been amended to limit the copolymer to containing from 0.1 to 4 mol% of polymerized units of a cyclic olefin. Support for the amendment is found in Example 3 on page 66 where the cyclic olefin norbornene is present in an amount of 4 mol%. No new matter is added.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants thank Examiner Asinovsky for the helpful and courteous discussion of April 9, 2003. During the discussion the Examiner agreed that further limiting the claimed copolymer by restricting the amount of cyclic olefin to 0.1 to 4 mol% would bring the claims into condition for immediate allowance.

Claim 10 has been amended herein to limit the amount of cyclic olefin to from 0.1 to 4 mol%.

The Office has asserted that the claimed composition is obvious in view of compositions described in Farley (U.S. 5,874,512). Farley discloses at column 17, lines 1-9:

> For use as a tackifier, resins produced herein preferably have about 5 mole percent or more incorporation of cyclic olefins, more preferably in the range of from about 10 mole percent to about 90 mole percent, even more preferably in the range of from about 5 mole percent to about 85 mole percent, even more preferably from about 10 mole percent to about 80 mole percent, even more preferably from about 15 mole percent to about 75 mole percent, most preferably from greater than 20 mole percent to 75 mole percent.

Farley does not disclose a copolymer wherein the cyclic olefin must be present in amounts of from 0.1 to 4 mol% (see for example Tables 2-4). The presently claimed invention, wherein the cyclic olefin must be present in amounts not greater than 4 mol%,

cannot be obvious in view of the Farley compositions which are disclosed to "have about 5 mole percent or more" of the cyclic olefin present.

Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

During the discussion, Applicant's U.S. representative brought to the Examiner's attention that the compositions of the Farley reference are disclosed as useful for tackifiers and adhesives. The claimed composition is useful for, *inter alia*, preparing films and sheets that are used as substitutes for polyvinylchloride films. Polyolefin films are often used in applications such as Saran™ wrap which is in widespread use in consumer applications. Environmental concerns have encouraged film produces to move towards non-chlorine containing films (page 1, lines 13-16). Such films can be formed by molding the claimed copolymer alone or as mixtures with other polymers (e.g., blow molding, casting, extrusion, calendaring, etc., page 57, lines 2-20).

Blends of the prior art composition are described as useful as adhesives on substrates (column 20, lines 36-39). Although it is disclosed that the adhesives can be applied as a coating or film onto a backing material (column 20, lines 53-55) there is no disclosure that the prior art compositions can be used as a molded films or molded sheets. In the Tables of the Farley patent (see Table 2), the adhesive performance of various compositions which contain the prior art composition are demonstrated. In none of these Examples is the composition a molded film or sheet. Rather the prior art compositions are cast onto Mylar to provide a dry layer of the formulated adhesive (column 28, lines 60-67).[1]

Dependent Claim 8 is drawn to films or sheets that comprise the composition of the invention. Such molded films or sheets are nowhere described or disclosed in the prior art

[1] At column 19, lines 64-67 it is noted that the components of the pressure sensitive adhesives can be blended by methods that include extruder blending, however no mention is made that a film may be extruded or molded.

relied upon by the Examiner. Applicants submit that the films and/or sheets of dependent Claim 8 cannot be obvious in view of a tackifying or adhesive composition that is nowhere described as a self standing film or sheet.

Applicants submit the amendment to the claims places all now-pending claims in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections and the passage of all now-pending claims to Issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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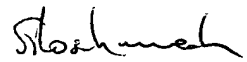

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--10. (Amended) An olefin copolymer comprising polymerized units of

0.1 to [10] 4 mol% of a cyclic olefin;

0.1 to 45 mol% of an aromatic vinyl compound; and

an aliphatic α-olefin having from 2 to 20 carbon atoms,

wherein the cyclic olefin and the aromatic vinyl compound account for from 0.2 to [50] 49 mol% of the olefin copolymer; and

wherein the olefin copolymer has a glass transition temperature T_g of lower than 60°C.--